

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 L-03 H-02 ACDA-10 ERDA-07 IO-10

SAM-01 EUR-12 /091 W

----- 060648

R 140348Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2457

INFO USIA WASHDC

DOD WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 11251

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: ADMIRAL LAROCQUE IN JAPAN

SUMMARY: ON INVITATION OF JAPANESE INTELLECTUALS' FAVORITE WEEKLY, ASAHI JOURNAL, RADM GENE LAROCQUE VISITED JAPAN IN EARLY AUGUST FOR SERIES OF PUBLIC AND MEDIA APPEARANCES. HIS STATEMENTS EXPANDED ON HIS PUBLISHED TESTIMONY LAST FALL, BUT POTENTIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT MUCH REDUCED BY HEAVY JAPANESE PUBLIC PRE-OCCUPATION WITH MIKI VISIT AND "RED ARMY" HIJACKING INCIDENT IN KUALA LUMPUR.

1. RETIRED RADM GENE LAROCQUE VISITED JAPAN IN EARLY AUGUST AT INVITATION OF ASAHI MEDIA EMPIRE FOR BUSY SERIES OF INTERVIEWS AND LECTURES. INTERVIEWS IN 8/8 ASAHI SHIMBUN BY EDITORIALIST JUNNOSUKE KISHIDA, IN 8/15 ASAHI JOURNAL (FAVORITE GENERAL WEEKLY OF LIBERAL JAPANESE INTELLECTUALS) BY TOKYO UNIV PROF SEKI KANJI, ON TBS-TV NETWORK 8/5 IN LATE AFTERNOON AND ON ASAHI-AFFILIATED NET-TV NETWORK FOLLOWING MORNING, AS WELL AS 8/8 PUBLIC LECTURE AT ASAHI CULTURE CENTER IN TOKYO'S SHINJUKU SECTION ALL PROVIDED STRONGLY PACIFIST JAPANESE WITH DATA AND VIEWS USEFUL TO THEIR ANTI-NUCLEAR AND ANTI-BASE STANCE.

2. MAIN POINTS STRESSED BY LAROCQUE: (A) USN COMBAT VESSELS INCREASINGLY EQUIPPED WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS SYSTEMS; ALL WITH SUCH UNCLASSIFIED

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SYSTEMS ALWAYS CARRY N-ARMS; AND MOST 7TH FLEET COMBAT VESSELS

NOW HAVE N-ARMS. (B) AS SEN IN SECDEF'S RECENT STATEMENTS ABOUT FIRST USE OF N-ARMS IF WAR RECURS IN KOREA, US STRATEGIC PLANNERS INCREASINGLY REGARD NUCLEAR WAR AS NORMAL AND RATIONAL; "IT IS TO COUNTER SUCH THINKING THAT I AM SPEAKING OUT IN U.S.A." (C) U.S. NUCLEAR DETERRENT POWER IS MEANINGLESS AS REGARDS JAPAN; AND ALL U.S. N-ARMS DEPLOYED GLOBALLY SHOULD BE RETURNED TO U.S. SOIL. (D) U.S. FORWARD-BASE SYSTEM IN WEST PACIFIC REPRESENTS HOLDOVER OF WORLD WAR II MENTALITY AND IS VALUELESS. (E) (IN RESPONSE TO INTERVIEWER'S QUERY ON VALUES OF NON-NUCLEAR ZONES) PROPOSALS FOR NUCLEAR-FREE ZONES NOT USEFUL BECAUSE ICBMS CAN NEGATE ZONES AND NO-USE OR NO-THREAT PLEDGES MIGHT ONLY BE HONORED WHEN CONVENIENT TO MAJOR POWERS. (F) PRIME NEED NOW IS FOR US-SOVIET FREEZE OF ARMS RACE BY (1) 5-YEAR TOTAL TEST BAN, (2) HALT TO WARHEAD PRODUCTION, (3) HALT TO DEVELOPMENT NEW N-ARMS SYSTEMS. (G) JAPAN'S "NUCLEAR ALLERGY" IS SPLENDID AND HOPEFULLY WILL PROVE COMMUNICABLE TO ALL NATIONS. (H) JAPAN SHOULD DEMAND FULL US-SOVIET COMPLIANCE WITH NPT AND JOIN WITH OTYR NON-RATIFIERS OF NPT TO PRESSURE US AND USSR TO REDUCE NUCLEAR ARSENALS AS PRICE FOR THESE NON-NUCLEAR STATES' SIGNING NPT. (I) U.S. NUCLEAR OVERKILL IS RESULT LARGELY OF INTERSERVICE RIVALRY FOR N-WEAPON SYSTEMS; AND SIZE AND VARIETY OF U.S. NUCLEAR ARSENAL IS RATIONALIZED BY ACCEPTANCE OF MISTAKEN CONCEPT THAT LIMITED (TACNUKE) NUCLEAR WAR COULD BE KEPT FROM ESCALATING INTO GENERAL HOLOCAUST.

3. LAROCQUE ACTIVITIES, STATEMENTS AND VISITS TO HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI APPEAR TO HAVE HAD LITTLE IMMEDIATE PUBLIC IMPACT BECAUSE NEWS COVERAGE OF HIS VISIT WAS OVERWHELMED BY PREOCCUPATION OF MEDIA WITH MIKI VISIT TO U.S. AND "RED ARMY" TERRORISTS' ACTIONS IN KUALA LUMPUR. HOWEVER, LIBERAL CRITICS AND ACADEMICIANS PROFESSIONALLY INTERESTED IN DEFENSE THEORY HAVE ACQUIRED MUCH DATA USEFUL TO THEIR CAUSE, AND "REFORMIST" POLITICAL FORCES REPORTED DETERMINED TO ATTACK GOJ ON SECURITY ISSUES IN COMING EXTRA DIET SESSION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SEEK EXPLOIT EXPANDED LAROCQUE CRITICISMS TO FULLEST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, VISITS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO11251
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750280-0641
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750851/aaaabsmk.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JAN 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADMIRAL LAROCQUE IN JAPAN SUMMARY: ON INVITATION OF JAPANESE INTELLECTUALS' FAVORITE WEEKLY
TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, JA, (LAROCQUE, GENE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006